



Control Number: 51812



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51812

To:

Texas Governor Greg Abbott
ERCOT (Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc.)
Texas Public Utility Commission
PEC (Pedernales Electric Cooperative Inc.)
Texas State Senator Dawn Buckingham
Texas State Representative Terry Wilson

CC:

US Rep. Roger Williams

From:

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Subject: State of Texas failure to provide for Texans during cold weather crisis.

This letter is being sent to voice my disappointment in the inability of the "To:" parties to perform at expected levels.

As a 6th Generation Texan, and direct descendant of Col Travis's wagon master, Sampson Connell, I am in disbelief that Texas leadership could fail Texans in such a colossal way.

<http://thetexasunderground.blogspot.com/2016/09/sampson-connell-1787-1845.html> (Last wagon Alamo)

The inability of the Texas electric grid to do its job during this historic event has been known for at least 10 years. The 2011 incident brought to light the issues weather like this could cause. Yet the state of Texas failed to mandate changes for power generators, providers and distributors be made so crisis like these are avoided.

How many Texans lost their life due to the "To:"'s failure?

How many billions of dollars will this cost Texas and Texans?

To Gov. Abbott: Who was elected to be the leader of Texas? Was it ERCOT? Was it the public utility commission? No sir, it is you which have been elected to be the leader of Texas. Your inability to accept your office's failure publicly has diminished the respect I had for you. The buck stops with you Governor and it was "your" office that had the responsibility to make sure the state was ready for this weather event.

Any investigation by Texas House and Senate needs to include the Office of Texas Governor for failure to ensure Texas was prepared for this event. The investigation needs to review the Governor's policies and procedures for historic weather events preparedness.

To PEC, I must commend the proactive manner in which you clear trees from around transmission lines. None of the lines in my area went down that I was aware of.

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Yet, during this crisis it is painfully clear that your crisis planning and management is willfully lacking.

I have had no communications from you in forms of text, email or calls nor had you web site page been updated for many days to communicate to members other than to say, it's ERCOT's fault, not ours.

The lack of communications from PEC to members left them unable to plan and often to worry that maybe the lines have fallen. You were never sure until the power came back.

As a member of PEC, I expect PEC to invest in automation that keeps affected members informed as what to expect and when to expect it.

When I tried calling PEC; it would ring, pick up, and go to a busy signal. No critical information appears on the web site during the start of this historic event.

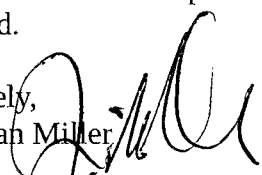
Later, a FQA was added stating the PEC systems were just overwhelmed. This just tells me whoever is responsible for system capacity planning failed. PEC must do better by its member. PEC must communicate to member in a timely manner during crisis!

Below are thoughts and suggestions I have around this incident.

I do expect to be contacted back by my state Representative and Senator, as well as my provider, PEC, addressing my concerns.

Lastly, it's time to stop with finger pointing and excuses. Only solutions count at this point moving forward.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Miller

 02/21/2021

** Suggestions **

- Require energy producers/generators for the state of Texas to be able to operate in the worst of conditions. Make 2011 recommendation into requirements.
- Require distributors (PEC) to have an incident communication plans to those it provides services to.
- Require distributors (PEC) to have better sectioning in grids they control to have better control over rolling blackouts to be able to meet decrease while still providing enough intermittent power to keep member from freezing.
- Implement fines and other punishments for generators, providers and distributors that leave individuals without power for longer than 1 hour during freezing weather
- Provide aid/funds/requirement for providers to have a way to store power to help reduce outages.
- Require cities/towns to have means to reduce unneeded power consumption. e.g. We really do not need street lights (Dallas, Houston, Kyle, Buda, etc) when people are freezing to death.
- Require huge building, like Frost Bank in Austin, to turn off unneeded lighting. e.g. the top of that building was lit up like it was Christmas.
- Provide rebates to Texans that install backup generators or some other solar/battery backup system for their houses. Knowing now that I can not depend on Texas for power, I plan on getting an emergency generator installed. I think Texas should cover some of that expense.

- Provide rebates for those facing plumbing repair like me.
- Provide rebates for those that spend money trying to harden plumbing against freezing.
- Have all required permits and fees waved throughout state of Texas when it comes to damage repair for damage caused by this crisis..
- Link grid to out of state sources and allow federal government to oversee as current Texas Governor, Abbot has failed and should no longer be allowed to oversee the grid.

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